

TANFIELD  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR, 1910.

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STANLEY,

*February 10th, 1911.*

GENTLEMEN,

In presenting this Report to your Council, I have tried to give you the facts from the notes which I have obtained, as owing to the death of the Medical Officer of Health I have not got the verbal information from which I could enlarge on some of the main points in the Report, viz.: in respect to (i.) The Factory and Workshops Act, (ii.) the Sanitary state of the district, (iii.) the amount of Sickness due to Zymotic Diseases, and (iv.) Vital Statistics for the year 1910. The greatest industry of the district—coal-mining—does not come under the supervision of your Board, as the mines are governed by their own special Acts, but the lesser industries, trades and general sanitary condition of the inhabitants, come under your jurisdiction. The past year has been fairly prosperous for this district, no help being needed for the unemployed.

The factories and workshops in the district are visited by the Medical Officer of Health and Inspector, as required by the Act, to see that the ventilation is adequate for the number of workers, that there are ready means of exit, no overcrowding, and that they possess the necessary sanitary additions. There are 14 factories and 21 workshops. The inspections showed that they were being conducted in a satisfactory manner, only two minor cases requiring attention, which was given as soon as possible. No material injurious to health was being used in any of the factories or workshops.

**Surveyor and Inspector's Department.**—During the past year there were 60 self-contained houses built, all of which consisted of 4 or more rooms, and possessed self-contained yards and earth closets.

**Old Property.**—124 houses have been dealt with in respect to repairs and other improvements.

LINTZ.—The houses here have undergone repairs, portions of the yards have been asphalted and spouting provided; also improvements to the out-offices effected. There are still several privy ashpits, but these have been considerably improved.

At LOW FRIAR SIDE similar repairs have been done. These houses are chiefly of wooden construction, and difficult to keep in order. The back and front of the houses have been much improved by the provision of asphalt footpaths.

At HIGH FRIAR SIDE, 6 iron houses have been erected as temporary buildings, but these are not in compliance with the Bye-laws.

WHITE-LE-HEAD.—Improvements by means of slating, spouting, and yard-paving have been made here.

TANFIELD LEA.—The ventilation of these houses have been improved by means of a back door. Slating has also been done. New earth-closets have been provided to many of the houses.

94 insanitary privies have been condemned, and new earth-closets provided at Tanfield Lea, Tanfield, Hobson, and Burnopfield.

In the district there are 78 water-closets, 1,060 earth-closets, and 950 ashpits and privies.

During the year 184 formal and informal notices were served in respect to insanitary property, out-offices, and other nuisances.

(1) The number of dwelling-houses inspected under and for the purposes of Section 17 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.	7
(2) The number of dwelling-houses which, on inspection, were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	7
(3) The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of closing orders.	7
(4) The number of closing orders becoming operative.	3
(5) The number of dwelling-houses, the defects in which are being remedied without the making of closing orders.	4
(6) The number of dwelling-houses which after the making of closing orders were put into a fit state for human habitation.	None.
(7) A general character of the defects found to exist.	Dampness, defective roofs, walls, plastering, spouting, and generally dilapidated.

**Sewage.**—With the exception of a few isolated houses, the whole of the district is sewered. However, owing to the large increase of population, some of the various disposal works are now inadequate. In the case of the disposal by broad irrigation at Tantobie and White-le-Head, the land has now become sewage sick, and there must be either additions or a change of method shortly. Tanfield Village also requires additional land. At Burnopfield the land is incapable of further filtration, and I should suggest that works on the Bacteriological Filtration System be provided.



**Scavenging and Removal of Refuse** is carried out by contract, under the supervision of your Inspector, and care is taken that the deposits of refuse create no nuisance.

**Slaughter-Houses** are 7 in number. These are periodically inspected at times of slaughtering, and are found quite satisfactory. The various requirements are carried out. No cases of Tuberculosis were discovered.

**Milk Supply.**—There are 22 milk purveyors in the district, delivering from door to door. With regard to the cowkeepers, they are all farmers or tenants of land, and therefore the cows cannot be classified as entirely stall-fed. Their premises are kept in a fairly sanitary condition, that is in regard to ventilation, lime washing, etc.

**Water Supply.**—The Weardale and Consett Water Company supply all the houses in the district, with the exception of a few isolated houses. At Friarside, water has been laid into the houses in the place of an outside tap. The Water Company's supply is abundant and of excellent quality.

**Zymotic Diseases.**—The following cases of Notified Diseases were reported during the past year, viz.: 69 of Scarlatina, 31 of Diphtheria, 4 of Enteric Fever, and 27 of Erysipelas, making a total of 131, which is a reduction of 23 on the previous year.

**SCARLATINA.**—There was a large reduction in the number of cases of Scarlatina, 69 were reported as against 94 in the preceding year. The decrease is probably due to enforced removal to the Hospital, where complete isolation was not possible. The mortality was nil.

**DIPHTHERIA.**—The number of cases shewed a slight increase on the former year. The mortality was light.

**ENTERIC FEVER** was practically the same as last year. The cases seemed to have no connection with one another, and all were treated in the Hospital.

Out of 104 cases of Notifiable Diseases suitable for Hospital treatment, 92 were transferred to that Institution.

**Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases.**—**MEASLES.**—Although present throughout the year, there was no serious outbreak of Measles. The mortality was nil.

**WHOOPING COUGH.**—The same may be said of Whooping Cough. Only 1 death occurred.

**DIARRHŒA and EPIDEMIC ENTERITIS** were prevalent chiefly during the summer months, leaving 3 fatalities.

**Vital Statistics.**—The number of births and deaths registered during the year amounted to 329 of the former and 110 of the latter, giving a birth-rate of 31.03 and a death-rate of 10.37 per 1,000, estimating the population at 10,600 at the end of

June, 1910. Compared with last year, the birth-rate is lower, and the death-rate the lowest on record. Compared with the county both rates are lower. The mortality from Zymotic Diseases is very light, and compares favourably with last year, being as follows:—Scarlatina, 0; Diphtheria, 2; Enteric Fever, 2; Puerperal Fever, 0; Measles, 0; Whooping Cough, 1; Diarrhœa and Epidemic Enteritis, 3; making a total of 8, as against 14 for the previous year. Infantile Mortality is very much lower than the average for the County, but in spite of this the deaths under 1 year represent nearly one-third of the total number of deaths.

The following table shows how the various rates of this district compare with those of the County :—

			COUNTY.	TANFIELD.
Birth-rate (per 1,000 population) ....	....	....	34.4	31.03
Death-rate                   ,,                   ,,                   ....	....	....	15.1	10.37
Zymotic Death-rate                   ,,                   ....	....	....	1.62	0.75
Infantile Mortality (per 1,000 births) ....	....	....	126	106.20
Smallpox (per 1,000 population) ....	....	....	Nil.	Nil.
Scarlet Fever                   ,,                   ,,                   ....	....	....	0.08	Nil.
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup                   ....	....	....	0.17	0.18
Enteric and Continued Fever                   ....	....	....	0.09	0.18
Measles                   ....                   ....                   ....                   ....	....	....	0.20	Nil.
Whooping Cough                   ....                   ....                   ....	....	....	0.25	0.09
Diarrhœa and Epidemic Enteritis                   ....	....	....	0.81	0.28
Phthisis                   ....                   ....                   ....                   ....	....	....	0.88	0.37
Other Tubercular Diseases                   ....	....	....	0.65	0.56
Acute Respiratory Diseases                   ....	....	....	2.42	1.50

Attached are the various Government Forms.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

**E. BENSON,**

*Medical Officer pro. tem.*

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,  
TANFIELD.

TABLE 1.

TANFIELD URBAN DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR WHOLE DISTRICT.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.		DEATHS AT ALL AGES. TOTAL.		Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	DEATHS AT ALL AGES. NETT.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*				Number.	Rate.*
1.	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1900	8,100	318	39.2	61	191.8	141	17.4	—	—	8	141	17.4
1901	8,300	354	42.6	52	146.8	138	16.6	—	—	—	138	16.6
1902	8,500	319	37.5	46	144.2	149	17.5	1	1	3	148	17.4
1903	8,700	306	35.1	57	186.25	150	17.25	7	7	2	143	16.4
1904	8,900	312	35	63	201.2	172	19.3	10	10	4	166	18.6
1905	9,000	294	32.7	53	180.2	152	16.9	14	10	—	142	15.8
1906	9,100	295	32.4	43	145.7	128	14.07	15	9	5	124	13.6
1907	9,300	320	34.4	38	118.7	142	15.2	9	7	3	138	14.8
1908	9,600	355	36.99	38	107	142	14.8	9	7	9	144	15
1909	10,100	363	35.94	44	121.2	138	13.6	20	17	4	125	12.3
Averages for years 1900—1909.	8,960	323	36.18	49	154.3	145	16.26	10	8	4	140	15.79
1910.	10,600	329	[31.03	35	106.20	118	11.13	15	13	5	110	10.37

\* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Total population at all ages, 8,276.    Number of inhabited houses, 1,632.    Average number of persons per house, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ —At Census of 1901.

Area of District in acres, 6,650.



TABLE III.

TANFIELD URBAN DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the Year 1910.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	AT AGES—YEARS.						Number of Cases Removed to Hospital.
	At all ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards
Diphtheria & Membranous Croup	31		5	22	3	1	28
Erysipelas     ....	27	1			1	22	3
Scarlet Fever ....	69	2	23	40	2	2	60
Enteric Fever     ....	4				2	2	4
Puerperal Fever     ....							
TOTALS     ....	131	3	28	62	8	27	92



TABLE IV.

TANFIELD URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death, during the Year 1910.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths in the whole District at Subjoined Ages.						Deaths in Public Institutions.
	At all ages.	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards
Measles ....							5
Scarlet Fever ....		1					4
Whooping-cough ....	1		2				6
Diphtheria & Membranous Croup....	2				1	1	
Enteric Fever ....	2						
Diarrhœa ....	3	2	1				
Enteritis ....	1	1					
Gastritis ....							
Puerperal Fever ....							
Phthisis, Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4			1	2	1	
Other Tuberculous Diseases ....	6	3	1	1		1	
Cancer, malignant disease ....	6					3	
Bronchitis ....	4	1				1	
Pneumonia ....	8	4	2			1	
Pleurisy ....							
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs	4	1	2	1			
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver ....	2					2	
Premature Birth ....	6	6					
Diseases & Accidents of Parturition	1					1	
Heart Diseases ....	8			1		3	4
Accidents ....	3	1			1	1	
Suicides ....	1					1	
All other causes ....	48	15	2	2	1	11	17
All causes ....	110	35	10	6	5	27	15

TABLE V.

TANFIELD URBAN DISTRICT.  
INFANTILE MORTALITY FOR THE YEAR 1910.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	1—2 Weeks.	2—3 Weeks.	3—4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1—2 Months.	2—3 Months.	3—4 Months.	4—5 Months.	5—6 Months.	6—7 Months.	7—8 Months.	8—9 Months.	9—10 Months.	10—11 Months.	11—12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
Whooping-cough .....											1					2	1
Diarrhoea, all forms .....											1						2
Enteritis .....											1						1
Premature Birth .....	5			1	6												6
Congenital Defects .....	2				2												2
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus .....	3				3	2						1					6
Tuberculous Peritonitis .....												2	1				3
Meningitis .....														1			1
Convulsions .....	1			1	2								1	1	1		5
Bronchitis .....			1		1												1
Laryngitis .....			1		1								1		1		1
Pneumonia .....											1				1		4
Suffocation, overlying .....						1											1
Other Tuberculous Diseases .....																	
Other Causes .....	1				1												1
	12		2	2	16	3					3	3	3	2	3	2	35

Births in the year: Legitimate, 319; illegitimate, 10.

Deaths in the year of: Legitimate infants, 33; illegitimate infants, 2.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 110.

Population, estimated to middle of 1910, 10,600.

TANFIELD URBAN DISTRICT.

Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspector of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number.	Inspections.
Factories .... (Including Factory Laundries)	14	28
Workshops .... (Including Workshop Laundries)	21	42
Total ....	35	70

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION—Unsuitable or defective, number found 2;  
Remedied 2.

E. BENSON,

Medical Officer of Health. *pro. Em*

February 10th, 1911.

